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Proceedings of the Club.

The regular monthly meeting of the Club was held March 8th, the President in the chair and fifty-six persons present. Miss E. V. Clark was elected an active member.

A letter was read from M. G. E. Hylten-Cavallius, director of the Botanical Exchange Club "Linnæa" at Lund, Sweden, asking that the Torrey Club consent to become the agent of "Linnæa" for America. It was unanimously resolved that the request be granted, and the Secretary was requested to communicate with the Director of the Exchange Club.

Mr. E. E. Sterns exhibited specimens of *Bouvardia leiantha*, Benth., with dimorphous flowers, confirming Prof. W. W. Bailey's observations on the plant recorded in the Bulletin, Vol. vi., p. 106, which are cited by Darwin. Also flowering specimens of *Pyxidanthera barbulata*, sold by a New York florist as "Black Forest Heather;" comment was made on the extremely early blossoming of the plant. Also a flowering bush of the poisonous South African "Giftboom," *Akokanthera venenata*, Don, (*Cestrum venenosum*, Thunb.), of the Apocynaceæ, and remarked on the custom of the natives of boiling the milky juice to a gelatinous substance, with which they tip their arrows.

Mr. E. B. Southwick exhibited specimens of a species of *Heliconia* (probably *H. Bahai*, L.), collected by Mr. P. H. Dudley on the Isthmus of Panama, where it is common and known as "Wild Plantain." Dr. Britton remarked that the abundant starch grains in the stem and leaves are of a large size and oblong in shape. Mr. Southwick showed also beautifully preserved specimens of a number of aquatics grown in the Central Park Terrace Pond in 1886, including eight species and varities of *Nymphæa*, *Limnanthemum nymphæoides*, *Limnocharis Humboldtii* and *Cyperus Papyrus*.

President Newberry remarked on the different plants called "Lotus." *Nymphæa Lotus* formerly grew in the Nile, and parts of it are found in the Egyptian mummy-cases, but it does not now grow in that region. The "Forgetful Lotus" is a species of *Zizyphus*, a native of Northern Africa.

Dr. Britton showed a specimen of *Solidago Missouriensis*, Nutt., collected by himself at Marquette, Mich, and apparently new to the Flora of Michigan; also a specimen of *Cratægus coccinea*, var. *macrantha*, Dudley, collected by Mr. Poggenburg at Fort Montgomery, New York, and flowering specimens of *Tussilago Farfara*, L., collected by Dr. Newberry at Amenia, New York.

Mr. C. F. Cox spoke of the tendency to variation in the genus *Botrychium*, and exhibited five specimens of abnormal *B. ternatum*, var. *lunarioides*, from northern Vermont, comprising (a) two imperfectly developed sterile segments; (b) one fertile and two sterile segments; (c) two large fertile and one sterile segment; (d) one well developed fertile segment with a second, small, fertile one and a sterile segment; (e) one large fertile segment with two smaller fertile and one small sterile segment.

An exhibition of Microscopical Preparations by the members of the Section of Histology and Cryptogamic Botany was then given. The objects shown were as follows:

1. A fungus fruiting in the cell-walls of *Pinus Strobus*, by P. H. Dudley, C.E.
2. Section of a fungus growing in cord-like masses, 8 to 10 feet long, in the Dickinson Iron Mine, N. J. The central portion of these strings is composed of loosely matted hyphæ, enclosed by a harder cortex. By N. L. Britton.
3. Water-pores in the leaves of *Fuchsia* and *Tropæolum*, by Mrs. Winthrop Cowdin.
4. Antheridia, archegonia, operculum, annulus and peristome of species of *Fissidens*, *Funaria* and *Barbula*. Also prothallia of mosses and ferns. Mrs. Britton and Miss Steele.
5. Tyloses in the rootstock of *Aristolochia Serpentaria*, showing protrusions of the parenchyma into a dotted duct, and the protrusions containing starch.
6. Branched glandular hairs of tobacco leaf.
7. Epidermis of *Vanilla*, each cell containing a tabular crystal of calcic oxalate.
8. Mucilage from the leaves of *Nymphæa alba*, containing immense numbers of several species of Bacteria, both *Bacillus* and *Micrococcus* forms. This mucilage appears to be the zoögleal state of these Bacteria. Nos. 5 to 8 by Joseph Schrenk.